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(54) Connector for a substrate with an electronic circuit

(57) A connector (1) for connecting a substrate (2) with an electronic circuit to a printed circuit board (11) comprises a housing (4) of insulating material with a zone (5) for receiving said substrate. A main surface of the substrate is provided with contact balls (3) arranged in a given grid pattern with a predetermined pitch in column and row direction and the printed circuit board is provided with contact pads (10) arranged in the grid pattern. Through-holes (6) are provided in the zone in the grid pattern and contact members (7) are provided in at least a part of the through-holes. Further the connector comprises positioning means for locating the substrate with respect to the housing in such a manner that the through-holes of the housing are aligned with the contact balls of the substrate. These positioning means comprises at least one reference plate (12) which can be positioned on the housing (4), the reference plate comprising through-holes (13) arranged in the grid pattern for at least a part of the contact balls (3) of the substrate (2). Each reference plate and the housing are provided with cooperating coupling means (14-17) for accurately positioning the reference plate with respect to the housing.

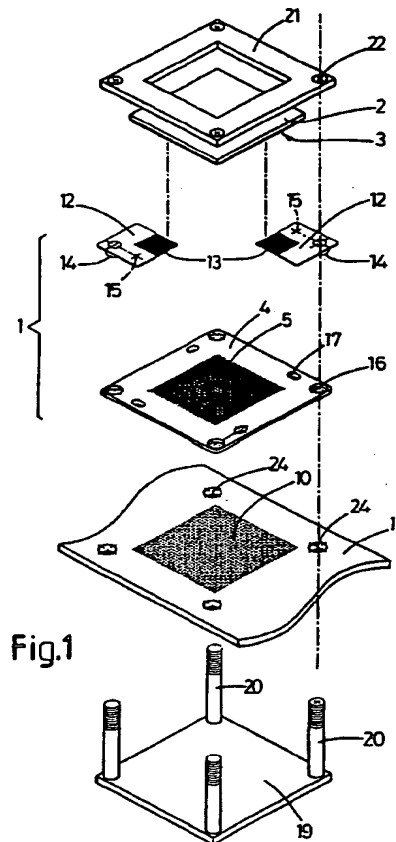


Fig.1

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Description

The invention relates to a connector for connecting a substrate with an electronic circuit to a printed circuit board, wherein a main surface of the substrate is provided with contact balls arranged in a given grid pattern with a predetermined pitch in column and row directions and the printed circuit board is provided with contact pads arranged in said grid pattern, said connector comprising a housing of insulating material with a zone for receiving said substrate, wherein through-holes are provided in said zone in said grid pattern and contact members are provided in at least a part of said through-holes, and positioning means for locating the substrate with respect to the housing in such a manner that the through-holes of the housing are aligned with the contact balls of the substrate.

A connector of this type is described for example in US-A-4,969,826 and US-A-4,699,593. Such connectors are used for example for connecting the contact balls of the substrate to the contact pads of the printed circuit board. In a known substrate the contact balls are arranged in a grid pattern of 32 x 32. At this an accurate positioning of the substrate with respect to the housing and of the housing with respect to the printed circuit board is very important. The construction of the known connector is relatively complicated and further the connector is only suitable for a substrate of one size.

The invention aims to provide a connector of this type wherein the positioning means are made in a simple manner and allow for an accurate positioning of the substrate with respect to the contact members of the housing while the connector is further suitable for substrates of different sizes.

To this end the connector according to the invention is characterized in that said positioning means comprises at least one reference plate which can be positioned on the housing, said reference plate comprising through-holes arranged in said grid pattern for at least a part of the contact balls of the substrate, wherein each reference plate and the housing are provided with cooperating coupling means for accurately positioning the reference plate with respect to the housing.

In this manner a very simple positioning means is obtained by means of which the substrate can be positioned with respect to the contact members of the housing in a very accurate manner. The reference plate shows the important advantage that substrates of different sizes can be positioned on the housing of the connector. Because the reference plate is made as a separate component, reference plates with different sizes can be provided so that the connector is suitable for substrates of various sizes.

In order to provide for an easy locating of substrate of different sizes on a reference plate, a preferred embodiment of the invention is characterized in that the upper side of each reference plate is provided with reference marks for indicating the correct position of substrates of different sizes.

The invention will be further explained hereinafter by reference to the drawings, in which an embodiment of the connector according to the invention is shown.

Fig. 1 shows an exploded view of an embodiment of the connector according to the invention, wherein a substrate, a part of a printed circuit board and the mounting means are also shown.

Fig. 2 partly shows a cross-section of the connector of fig. 1 in assembled position.

Fig. 3 partly shows a cross-section of the housing of the connector of fig. 1 at a larger scale.

Fig. 4 partly shows a top view of the connector of fig. 1 at a larger scale.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the bottom side of the reference plate of the connector of fig. 1.

Fig. 1 shows an exploded view of a connector 1 for a substrate 2 with an electronic circuit. The substrate 2 is made as a so-called single chip package (SCP) of which the bottom main surface is provided with a large number of contact balls 3 which are arranged in a given grid pattern with a predetermined pitch in column and row directions of for example 1.27 mm. The contact balls 3 could for example be arranged in an array of 32 x 32.

The connector 1 is provided with a housing 4 of insulating material with a zone 5 for receiving the SCP 2. As shown in fig. 3 at a larger scale, through-holes 6 are provided in the zone 5 of the housing 4 in the same pattern as the contact balls of the SCP 2. A contact member 7 is mounted in each hole 6, a contact part 8 of the contact member 7 being adapted to contact a contact ball 3 and a contact part 9 being adapted to contact a contact pad 10 of a printed circuit board 11. These contact pads 10 of the printed circuit board 11 are of course arranged in the same pattern as the contact balls 3.

In order to obtain good connections between the contact balls 3 of the SCP 2 and the contact pads 10 of the printed circuit board 11 it is of course very important that the SCP 2 is positioned accurately with respect to the openings 6 in the housing 4 in such a manner that the contact balls 3 of the SCP 2 contact with certainty the contact parts 8 of the contact members 7 located in the openings 6. To this end the connector 1 comprises two reference plates 12 made of insulating material, each reference plate being provided with through-holes 13 as clearly shown in the top view of fig. 4. The holes 13 are arranged according to the same pattern as the contact balls 3 and are accurately located above the holes 6 at the location of the contact parts 8 when the reference plate is located on the housing 4. The surface of each reference plate 12 is substantially smaller than the surface of the housing 4 so that only a part of the zone 5 is overlapped and holes 13 are provided for only a part of the contact balls 3. The thickness of the reference plates 12 is such that the contact balls of the SCP 2 can contact the contact parts 8 of the contact members 7 through the holes 13.

Each reference plate 12 can be positioned accurately with respect to the housing 4, in that each reference plate 12 is coupled with the housing 4 by means of

a hollow pin at the bottom side and a projection 15 shown in fig. 5. The housing 4 comprises at each corner an opening 16 in which the hollow pin 14 can be fittingly received and a slotted hole 17 for the projection 15. Because the hollow pin 14 and the projection 15, and the opening 16 and the slotted hole 17, respectively, are accurately located with respect to the holes 13 and the holes 6, respectively, each reference plate 12 can be positioned accurately on the housing 4 by means of these cooperating coupling means 14-17.

When the reference plates 12 are mounted on the housing 4, the SCP 2 can be placed easily in the correct position on the zone 5 of the housing 4. The reference plates described show the advantage that positioning of the SCP 2 with respect to the holes 6 in the zone 5 occurs by using the contact balls 3 of the SCP 2 themselves. Moreover the reference plates are suitable for substrates of different sizes. As indicated in the top view of fig. 4 reference marks 18 are provided on the top side of each reference plate 12 by means of which substrates of different sizes can be placed on the same reference plate. Further reference plates of different sizes can be combined with the same housing 4. The housing 4 is also suitable for substrates of different sizes. If the substrate 2 is smaller than the zone 5 of the housing 4 it is possible to provide contact members 7 only in the holes 6 which will be lying opposite of contact balls 3 of the respective substrate 2, if desired.

Fig. 2 shows the connector 1 in assembled position. Attaching the substrate on the connector 1 and attaching the connector 1 on the printed circuit board 11, respectively, occurs by means of a mounting plate 19 with four mounting bolts 20 and a mounting frame 21 which is put on the mounting bolts 20 with openings 22. By means of nuts 23 the assembly is attached. Fig. 2 shows that the mounting bolt 20 extends through the hollow pin 14 of the reference plate 12 at the corresponding corner. This means that besides the openings for mounting the assembly no further openings need to be provided for positioning the reference plates 12 on the housing 4.

Fig. 2 further shows that the pin 14 of the reference plate 12 projects through the housing 4 and is fittingly received in an opening 24 of the printed circuit board 11. These openings 24 are accurately located with respect to the contact pads 10 of the printed circuit board 11. In this manner the pin 14 of each reference plate 12 provides also for a positioning of the housing 4 with respect to the contact pads 10 of the printed circuit board 11.

In the embodiment described two reference plates 12 are provided diametrically opposed with respect to the zone 5 of the housing 4. It is however also possible to use only one or more than two reference plates.

The invention is not restricted to the above-described embodiment which can be varied in a number of ways within the scope of the claims.

Claims

1. Connector (1) for connecting a substrate (2) with an electronic circuit to a printed circuit board (11), wherein a main surface of the substrate is provided with contact balls (3) arranged in a given grid pattern with a predetermined pitch in column and row directions and the printed circuit board is provided with contact pads (10) arranged in said grid pattern, said connector comprising a housing (4) of insulating material with a zone (5) for receiving said substrate, wherein through-holes (6) are provided in said zone in said grid pattern and contact members (7) are provided in at least a part of said through-holes, and positioning means for locating the substrate with respect to the housing in such a manner that the through-holes of the housing are aligned with the contact balls of the substrate, characterized in that said positioning means comprises at least one reference plate (12) which can be positioned on the housing (4), said reference plate comprising through-holes (13) arranged in said grid pattern for at least a part of the contact balls (3) of the substrate (2), wherein each reference plate and the housing are provided with cooperating coupling means (14-17) for accurately positioning the reference plate with respect to the housing.
2. Connector according to claim 1, characterized in that the coupling means (14-17) of each reference plate (12) also provide a positioning of the housing (4) with respect to the contact pads (10) of the printed circuit board (11).
3. Connector according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said coupling means (14-17) comprises a pin (14) formed at the lower side of each reference plate (12) and a through-hole (16) formed in the housing (4) in which said pin can be fittingly received, said pin and opening being located at an accurately predetermined location with respect to the corresponding through-holes (13) for the contact balls (3) and the contact members (7), respectively.
4. Connector according to claim 2 and 3, characterized in that the pin (14) of each reference plate (12) projects through the opening (16) of the housing (4) and can be fittingly received in an opening (24) of the printed circuit board (11), which is located at an accurately predetermined location with respect to the contact pads (10) of the printed circuit board (11).
5. Connector according to claim 2, 3 or 4, characterized in that the pin (14) of each reference plate (12) is hollow for receiving a mounting bolt (20).
6. Connector according to anyone of claims 2-5, characterized in that each reference plate (12) com-

prises a projection (15) at its lower side cooperating with a corresponding opening (17) in said housing (4).

7. Connector according to anyone of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the upper side of each reference plate (12) is provided with reference marks (18) for indicating the correct position of substrates (2) with different sizes.
8. Connector according to anyone of the preceding claims, **characterized** by two reference plates (12) which can be positioned diametrically with respect to said zone (5) of the housing (4).

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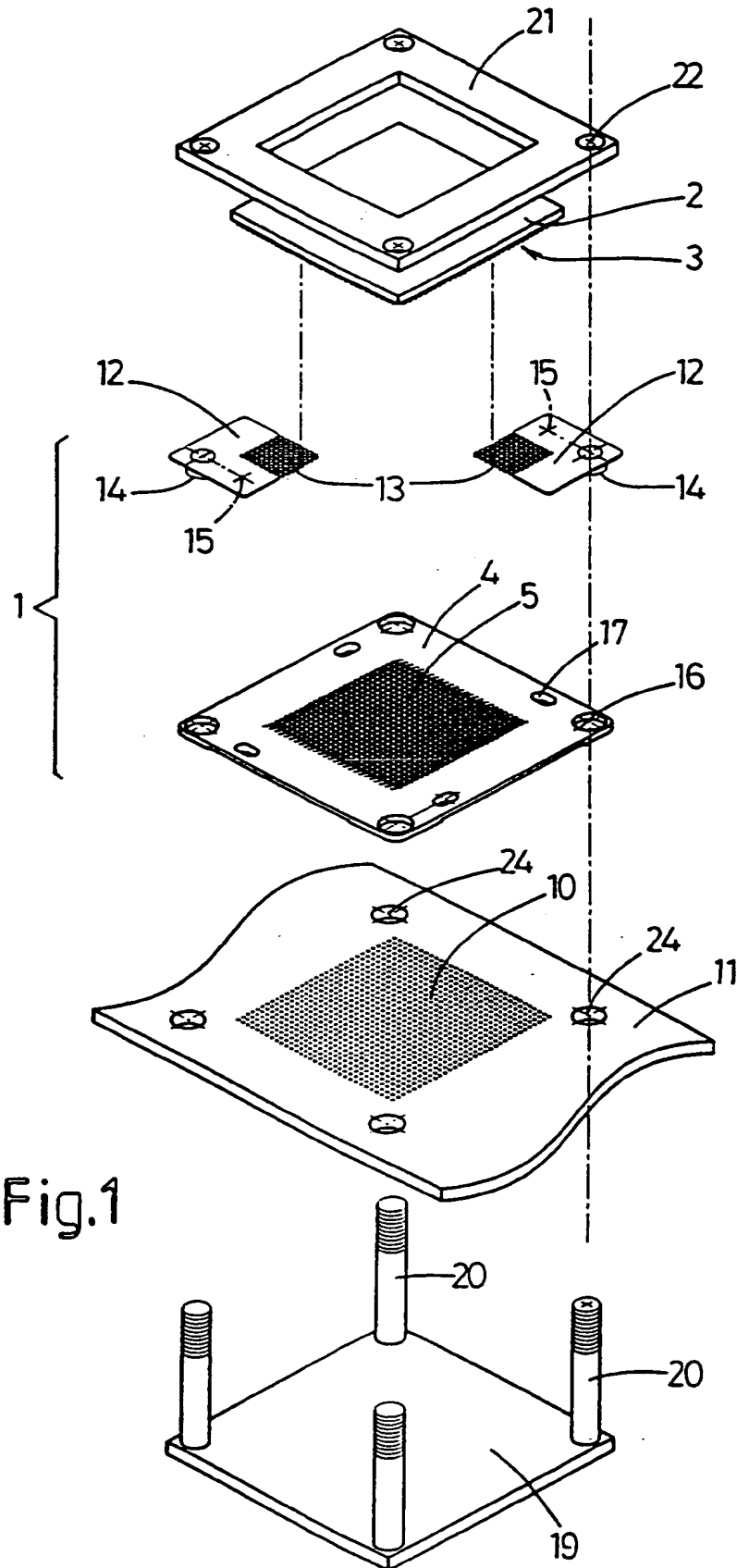


Fig.1

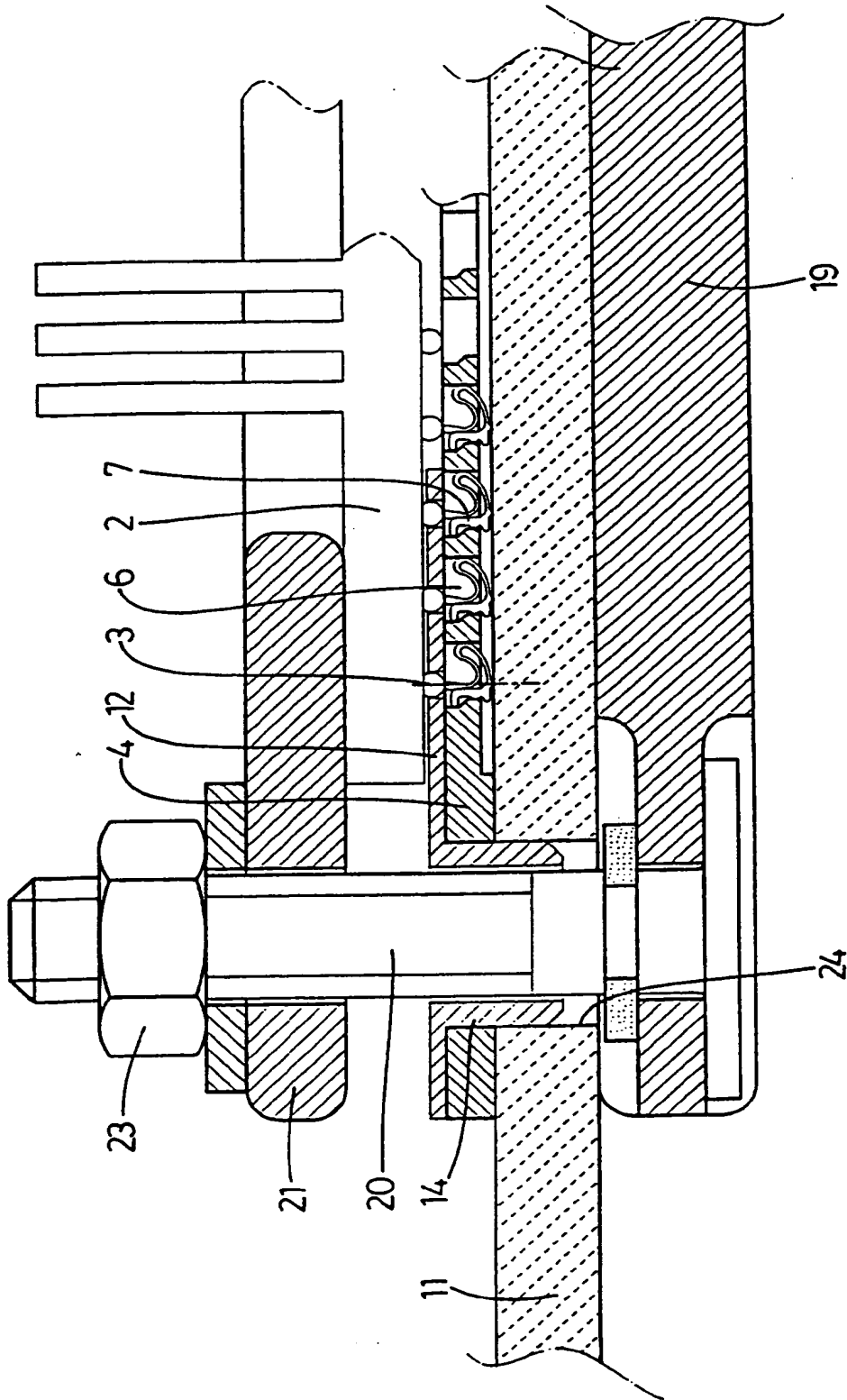
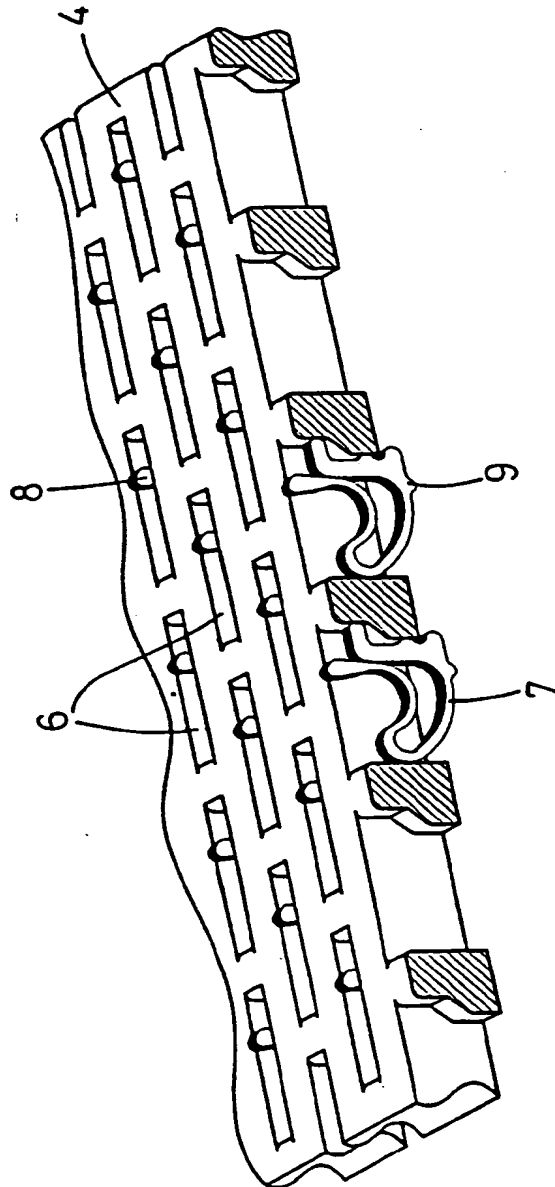


Fig.2



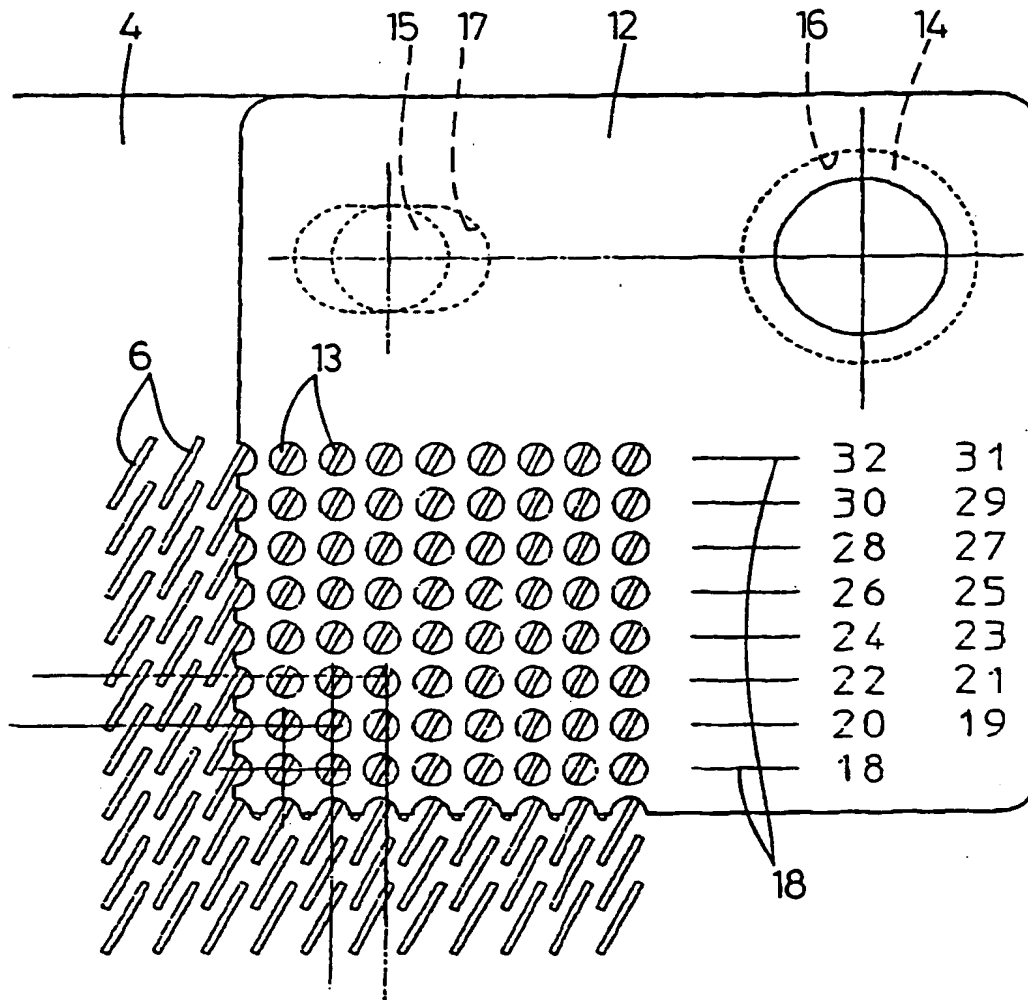


Fig.4

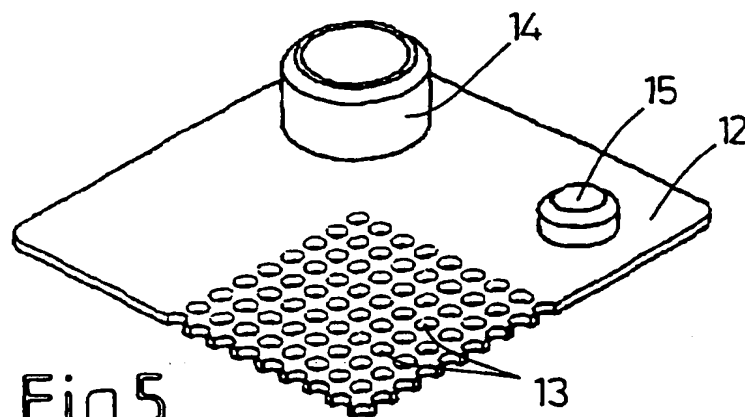


Fig.5

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 20 2606

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL.6) |
| A | EP-A-0 405 762 (AMP INCORPORATED) 2 January 1991 * the whole document * | 1 | H05K7/10 |
| A,D | US-A-4 969 826 (AMP) 13 November 1990 * the whole document * | 1 | |
| A,D | EP-A-0 386 853 (AMP) 12 September 1990 * the whole document * | 1 | |
| A | EP-A-0 255 244 (AMP) 3 February 1988 * the whole document * | 1 | |
| P,X | EP-A-0 619 696 (FRAMATOME CONNECTORS INTERNATIONAL) 12 October 1994 * the whole document * | 1 | |
| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. CL.6) |
| | | | H05K |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search | | Date of completion of the search | Examiner |
| THE HAGUE | | 25 January 1996 | Toussaint, F |
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